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Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530
Fax 202-616-9937
Microsoft ant@usdoj.gov

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As an individual who enjoys and depends very much on the computer and on user-friendly computer software, I write to express my personal hope that the federal courts will approve the settlement I understand is pending in the Microsoft antitrust matter.

Microsoft certainly has been an aggressive competitor. Perhaps the company has stepped over the line at times. However, this case now has dragged on for more than three years. During that time, the stock market has dropped precipitously, as I am painfully aware. Many information technology companies have gone under and our economy has fallen into a recession. It has left many here in the Triangle area of North Carolina unemployed, a number of them in my church congregation.

Continued litigation cannot resolve these problems. Continued warfare in the courtroom cannot restore the strength of our economy. It is time to bring this matter to a close.

The proposed settlement will require Microsoft to change its ways. And we don't have to take Bill Gates' word for it. The settlement will set up an independent committee to monitor Microsoft's compliance with the agreement.

North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper has agreed to the settlement. I have great confidence in Attorney General Cooper's judgment in this matter, having worked with him closely in other matters. Therefore, I join with him and with other citizens in calling for a speedy resolution of this matter and approval of the agreement.

Thank you.


Joe M. (Joe) Parker

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